

MODULE ONE

# Topic One - Terminology



## Topic 1 Terminology

# Styling Fundamentals

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# A

## **Accessories**

Incidental items including jewellery, hats, bags etc

## **Active Wear**

Any type of clothing that is designed to be worn during an active sport, such as yoga pants, track pants, swim shorts, rugby shorts, etc.

## **Acrylic**

Synthetic, man-made polymer fabrics that are lightweight, soft, and tend not to crease. Often used as a substitute to wool in jackets, jumpers, tops and scarves. However, it is less warm.

## **“A”-Line**

Dresses or skirts that are narrower at the top and flare gently outwards towards the bottom. This flatters most figures, particular pear-shaped ones.

## **Anorak**

Anoraks are hooded sports jackets specifically designed for extreme (windy, snowy etc.) weather conditions. Also known as a Parka, windbreaker, or windcheater.

## **Androgynous**

Someone with a mixture of masculine and feminine characteristics, whose gender you can't decide. In fashion, it features garments and styles associated with the opposite gender to the wearer. E.g. women wearing ties, brogues and oversized dress shirts, etc.

## **Applique**

A method of decorating garments where one fabric is applied to another. For example floral fabric stitched around the edge of a plain dress.

## **Apparel**

A commonly used general term used to describe clothing, attire, clothes and/or garments.



# Terminology

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## **A** CONTINUED....

### **Argyle**

Derived from the tartan of a clan from western Scotland, Argyle is knitted or woven with diamond patterns in two or more colours on a solid background.

### **Asymmetric**

A garment in which one side is longer than the other. Asymmetric cuts are common in necklines, collars, and hems.

### **Ascot Collar**

A tall collar with points turned up over chin, typically worn with a cravat.

### **Aviator Jacket**

Leather jackets, typically with a sheepskin collar. Styled around the leather jackets worn by fighter pilots in WWI and WWII.

### **Aviator Sunglasses**

Oversized sunglasses popularised by pilots.



# Terminology

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# B

## **Baby Doll**

Popularised by Carroll Baker in the 1956 film of the same name. Short dresses with empire necklines and a micro skirt, made of light chiffon fabric decorated with lace, ribbons, and bows. Originally worn as a night dress, but now acceptable as every day wear.

## **Bag**

Bags come in all shapes and sizes, including clutches, totes, satchels, backpacks, purses, shoulder bags, messenger bags, and more. Made from leather, plastic, or fabric, bags can be worn over the shoulder, across the body, on the back or carried in the hand. Although largely practical, designer bags have evolved as a fashion statement all of their own.

## **Bandana**

A piece of cloth worn tied around the head or neck.

## **Bandeau**

A narrow piece of fabric worn around the bust as a strapless alternative to a bra.

## **Batwing**

Popularised in the 1930's and 1980's, batwing sleeves are designed from a large triangular piece of fabric connecting the shoulder to the wrist and the wrist to the waist.

## **Bell Sleeve**

A bell sleeve flares out from the elbow or upper arm to create a bell shape.

## **Bellow Pocket**

A large gusseted pocket on jackets, pants and skirts, giving a safari-inspired look.

## **Belt**

Strips of flexible material made from leather, cloth, woven fabrics, chain, or other materials, and traditionally worn around the waist to support trousers. Belts have become fashionable accessories worn around the waist or under the bust.



# Terminology

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## **B** CONTINUED....

### **Beret**

A soft round hat traditionally made of felt or knitted wool, closely associated with traditional French culture.

### **Bermuda Shorts**

Semi-casual short trousers that fall to the knee and can be worn cuffed or un-cuffed. Also known as walking shorts or dress shorts, the name is derived from Bermuda, a country where it is acceptable for men to wear short trousers at work because of the heat.

### **Bertha Collar**

A deep flat collar that falls from neckline to the shoulder opening, either at the front or the back.

### **Bias**

A diagonal cut made against the grain of a fabric. Garments cut on the bias have a fluid movement and drape that follows the curves of the body.

### **Bib Necklace**

A necklace featuring a large front section, often decorated, embroidered, or beaded.

### **Bishop Sleeve**

Long, full sleeves held in place by a cuff at the wrist.

### **Blazer**

A long-sleeved jacket with lapels, worn formally or casually.

### **Blouse**

A women's shirt.

### **Bootleg**

Jeans or pants that taper to the knee and then flares slightly towards the ankle to make room for boots. Worn by men and women.



# Terminology

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## **B** CONTINUED....

### **Bouclé**

Woven or knitted fabric with a “looped” texture, popularised by renowned fashion house Chanel.

### **Bréton Stripe**

Thin, blue horizontal stripes on a white background. Based on the traditional French sailor top, which was popularised by Coco Chanel in the 1930's.

### **Brocade**

Brocade is Italian for “embossed cloth” - a rich, ornate fabric with elaborate designs and often featuring flower, foliage, and scroll motifs. Made with a Jacquard loom since the 17th Century.

### **Brogue**

A flat-heeled, lace-up leather shoe with perforated design patterns.



# Terminology

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# C

## **Cable Knit**

Knitting in a raised stripe resembling a twisted cable. A popular style of knitted sweater.

## **Cap Sleeve**

A small, short sleeve that sits on the shoulder.

## **Cape**

Sleeveless outer garments that hangs from the shoulders.

## **Capri Pants**

Women's slim pants finishing just below the knee. First created in 1949 by Emilio Pucci, and sold in his boutique on the island of Capri.

## **Cardigan**

Knitted woollen garments with button or zipper fastenings down the front. Named after James Brudenell, the 7th Earl of Cardigan in Britain, and worn by men and women alike.

## **Cargo Pants**

Shorts or pants with extra gusseted pockets for carrying bulky items and supplies.

## **Chelsea Boots**

Ankle-high slip-on boots with elasticated side panels.

## **Chemise**

Loose-fitting dresses that hang straight from the shoulders without a defined waist.

## **Cigarette Leg Pants**

Narrow-fitted trousers tapering to the ankle.

## **Coat**

Outer wear worn over a garment to provide protection from the weather. Some popular coat styles include duffel coats, trench coats, and great coats.



# Terminology

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## **C** CONTINUED....

### **Cocktail Dress**

Shorter evening dresses (usually fall to mid-thigh or to the knee) worn to formal and semi-formal events and cocktail parties.

### **Column Dress**

A long, straight cut dress without shaping.

### **Cowl Neck**

A soft draping of fabric hanging in soft folds on the neckline or back.

### **Crochet**

A decorative knitting technique created by looping and knotting fibres with hooked needles.



# Terminology

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# D

## **Darts**

A sewn-in fold designed to shape a garment, usually around the bust, waist, or hips.

## **Distressed**

Fabric that has been artificially aged or worn. Commonly used on denim.

## **Dolman Sleeve**

A large armhole extending from the bodice, narrowing at the cuff. Similar to a batwing.

## **Duffel Coat**

A heavy woollen coat with wooden toggle buttons. Named after a town in Belgium.



# Terminology

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# E

## **Elbow Patch**

A patch of fabric, leather, or suede, worn over the elbow to provide reinforcement.

## **Embellishments**

Non-essential ornaments that add beauty or elegance.

## **Embroidery**

A method of decorating fabric with designs stitched in coloured thread or yarn.

## **Empire Line**

Low-cut dress with high waistlines and short bodices.

## **Epaulettes**

Ornamental strip of fabric worn on the shoulder. Traditionally used on military uniforms to hold shoulder belts and protect soldier's shoulders.

## **Ethical Fashion**

Being ethical across all aspects of fashion design, production, retail and buying. It covers a range of issues such as working conditions, exploitation, fair trade, sustainable production, the environment, and animal welfare.

## **Evening Wear**

Outfits suitable for formal events.

## **Extra Wide Leg**

Pants designed with an extra wide fit around the hip, thigh, knee, and hem, which helps to balance out curvaceous hips.



# Terminology

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# F

## **Fabric**

Any cloth made by weaving, knitting, crocheting, or bonding yarns or threads.

## **Fad**

A fashion concept that quickly becomes popular and loses popularity quickly in a culture or subculture.

## **Fashionista**

A person who follows fashion or is involved in the fashion industry.

## **Fatigues**

Military combat pants.

## **Fedora**

Popular hat shape of the 1950's, made from a soft felt with a pinched front, snapped brim, and a crease down the centre of the wearer's head.

## **Fez**

Red felt hats shaped like truncated cones with black tassels. They originated in Fez, Morocco, and were traditionally called Tarboosh.

## **Fishnet**

Open weave knits became a defining feature of Punk dress in the late 1970s. More often associated with hosiery.

## **Fishtail**

Fan-shaped additions to the train of a dress. Popular in evening gowns. A fish-like train flows behind the wearer.

## **Fit and Flair**

A dress style characterized by a form-fitting bodices with skirts flaring out towards the hemline, often with pleats or folds.

## **Flannel**

Fabric with a short pile like towelling. Popularly used in 1970's sportswear, particularly shorts.



# Terminology

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## **F** CONTINUED....

### **Floral**

Fabric printed with flower motifs.

### **Footwear**

Shoes extending to the ankle, worn to protect the feet, and made in a range of styles and materials.

### **Fragrance**

Perfume made from essential oils and other elements to provide a pleasing and attractive smell.

### **Fluted**

A long sleeve, flared at the wrist.



# Terminology

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# G

## **Garment**

A piece of clothing made up of various pieces of fabric fastened together. Variation in garment styles define different fashions.

## **Garter**

Loops of cloth used to hold up stockings.

## **Geometric**

Designs based on simple shapes such as circles, squares, triangles, and trapezoids.

## **Gingham**

Lightweight cotton cloth, usually in a checkered pattern containing white with red, blue, or green.

## **Glam**

Music-related fashion from the early and mid-1970's with colourful, asexual outfits, such as platform shoes and one-piece glitter suits.

## **Gunmetal**

The colour of a mixture of 90% copper and 10% tin, which was used to make guns in the 1890's.



# Terminology

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# H

## **Halter Neck**

A top for women with a single strap, sometimes tied, behind the back of the neck.

## **Harem Pants**

Loose-fitting trousers that are gathered at the ankle, similar to what Turkish belly dancers usually wear.

## **Harris Tweed**

Soft, thick tweed woven from hand-dyed woollen yarn. A popular fabric for coats and suits for men and women.

## **Hats**

Pieces of clothing with a high crown and brim, worn on the head.

## **Haute Couture**

French for high sewing or dressmaking. Items of clothing that are exclusively made specifically for someone and custom-fitted. The pinnacle of the Fashion Industry.

## **Heels**

An element called a top piece that is added to the rear end of the sole of a shoe, lifting it away from the ground.

## **Hem**

The edge of a piece of cloth, folded up and sewn to enclose the cut edge so that it cannot unravel.

## **Hipster**

A style of skirts or pants where the waist band fits low on the hip rather than on the waist. Popularised in the 1960's, when they were worn with large belts.

## **Hosiery**

Tight-fitting knitted garments worn on the feet and legs.

## **Hounds-tooth**

A duotone pattern of checks and four-pointed shapes, used particularly for jackets, skirts, and other outer wear.



# Terminology

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# I

## **Inseam**

A seam running from the crotch to the hem of a skirt or pair of pants. Leg length is measured based on the inseam. Also refers to the measurement from the crotch to the shoe on a pair of pants.



# Terminology

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# J

## **Jacket**

Thigh or waist-length coats fastened with buttons, zips, press-studs, or toggles.

## **Jacquard Weaving**

Versatile weaving technique that allows a wrap thread to be raised independently of the other wrap threads, giving a tapestry effect.

## **Jewellery**

Decorative objects worn under or on someone's clothes, often made with precious metals such as gold, silver, and platinum, and gemstones such as diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, among others.

## **Jersey**

Flexible and finely-knitted fabric used in T-shirts, sportswear, and figure hugging garments. Particularly good for draping.

## **Jodhpurs**

Tight-fitting trousers with a tight fit on the lower leg and a flare above the knee. Named after the city in India where they were originally made, and usually worn for horse riding.



# Terminology

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# K

## **Kilt**

One piece, skirt-like garments made from Tartan or plaid cloth from Scotland.

## **Kimono**

Japanese coat-like garments with long, wide rectangular sleeves and an Obi sash belt. They are often luxurious and highly decorative.

## **Knee-Length**

A dress or skirt that falls around the knees.

## **Knife Pleat**

Narrow, sharp pleats on skirts and dresses. Particularly popular between the 1920's and the 1950's.

## **Knitting**

A method for producing cloth from wool or other types of thread. Loops are pulled through each other using two or more needles.



# Terminology

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# L

## **Lamé**

Shiny fabric made with metallic threads in gold or silver. Luxurious and glamorous.

## **Lapel**

Two triangular pieces of cloth that extend from the collar of a suit jacket.

## **Leather**

Material produced from the tanned skin of animals, usually cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats.

## **Leg Warmers**

Knitted, footless socks in a range of colours, worn by dancers for warmth during and after practice sessions.

## **Line**

Various divisions of a garment that are used to describe its shape and appearance.

## **Lingerie**

Garments worn by women as underwear, and usually made from silk, cotton, satin, polyester, and nylon.

## **Logo**

Graphical symbols designed to represent the brand of a company, product, service, or other industry.

## **Look Book**

A publication featuring styles and conceptual creative ideas, influences, and inspirations.

## **Lycra**

Man-made stretch fabric made from elasticated yarns. Since its introduction in 1958, Lycra has become an essential component of underwear, sportswear, and other figure-hugging garments.



# Terminology

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# M

## **Macramé**

A technique for knotting yarn, which is popular in home furnishings and handbags from the 1960's and 1990's.

## **Mary Jane**

A flat female shoe with rounded, closed-in toe, and a buckled strap across the instep.

## **Maxi Skirt**

A long, full-length skirt.

## **Merino Wool**

Fine cloth made from the wool of Merino sheep. Popular for outdoor garments such as jackets and sweaters.

## **Micro-skirt**

A very short skirt that barely covers the buttocks.

## **Mini skirt**

Short skirt with a hemline at least 20 cm above the knee.

## **Mohair**

A silk-like fibre made from the hair of Angora goats.

## **Monochromatic**

Use of a single colour in a design.

## **Muscle back**

A feature usually in vest tops, where the back is cut away to reveal the wearer's shoulder blades. Popular in sportswear for men and women.



# Terminology

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# N

## **Natural Fibres**

Fibres from plants and animals that can be spun into thread. E.g., wool, silk, linen, cotton, and hemp.

## **Neoprene**

A man-made fabric used for wetsuits. Has a stiff, body hugging quality that seals in body heat.

## **Nylon**

A strong, lightweight thread used for clothing and other items that need to be able to stretch.



# Terminology

**Opaque**

Non-transparent, or sheer.

**Open-Back**

A garment that reveals the entire back with a Halter Neckline and no straps or sheer fabric to obstruct the observer's view. Best for those who want to show off their backs and appear sexy and sophisticated.

**Organic Fashion**

Garments are made with natural materials which are grown in accordance with organic agricultural standards. Clothing that is produced using natural products which include, cotton, wool, jute, silk and ramie.

**Oversized**

Enlarged garments designed to alter the natural silhouette of the wearer.



# Terminology

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# P

## **Pattern**

Repeated and decorative designs that can be printed, stitched, or woven into fabric.

## **Peek-a-boo**

Part of a garment that has been cut out to reveal skin or underwear.

## **Petticoat**

An undergarment worn by women under a skirt, dress, or sari.

## **Plaid**

Patterned, woollen cloth with repeat horizontal and vertical blocks of colour. A non-traditional form of Tartan.

## **Pleats**

A double fold of fabric secured in place.

## **Pockets**

Pouch-like containers created in garments for carrying small items.

## **Poncho**

A single sheet of fabric with an opening for the head and arms, worn as an outer garment.

## **Pret-à-Porter**

Designer clothes sold in standard sizes; the opposite of made-to-measure.

## **Print**

Ink designs applied to fabrics such as cotton, silk, or polyester.

## **Pullover**

A garment which is put on by being pulled over the head, such as a jumper or sweater.



# Terminology

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## Q

### **Quilted, Quilting**

A layer of padding between two pieces of fabric, which is held in place by sewing in a diamond pattern over the top.

### **Quality Control**

This is a set of procedures that are in place to ensure that a manufactured product adheres to a defined set of quality criteria and meets the requirements of the client or customer.



# Terminology

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# R

## **Racer Back**

A feature of vest tops where the back is cut away to reveal the wearer's shoulder blades. Popular in men's and women's sportswear.

## **Recycled Clothing**

This is where individuals can either sell or donate their unwanted clothing to a Preloved/Second-hand retailer for on selling to the consumer.

## **Textiles**

This is a process where the fabric is shredded the granulated and formed into small pellets which are then broken down and turned in chips. The chips are spun into new fibre and used to make new fabrics. The other way to recycle is when recovered clothing textiles and trims and reused to produce "new" clothing. The shredded fabric is then granulated and formed into small pellets. The pellets are broken down polymerized and turned into polyester chips. The chips are melted and spun into new filament fiber used to make new polyester fabrics. Some companies are creating new pieces of clothing from scraps of old clothes.

## **Reversible**

A coat or other garment that can be worn inside-out.

## **Ribbing**

A pattern of knitting consisting of vertical stripes of Stockinette stitch, alternating with vertical stripes of reverse Stockinette stitch.

## **Ruche/Ruched**

Fabric gathered and sewn into a seam shorter than the length of the fabric. Used for trim and to create draping and texture. Pronounced as "roosh."

## **Runway**

This term used to be referred to as "Catwalk" which was a term derived from the way a female model walks which is similar to the walk of a cat. This term has now been replaced with the word Runway which is non gender specific and refers to the narrow platform or ramp that models walk on to showcase clothing and accessories at a fashion show.



# Terminology

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# S

## **Satin**

Cloth with a lustrous surface on one side and a dull surface on the back; usually woven from silk.

## **Seam**

The join formed when 2 pieces of fabric are sewn together with stitches.

## **Season**

A time period corresponding to the seasons of the year, for which designers produce specific collections of clothes.

## **Shape**

Various outlines or profiles that characterise the body's form.

## **Sheer**

Semi-transparent or flimsy fabric with a very fine knit, often used to produce tights, leggings, stockings, lingerie, and blouses.

## **Shoes**

Footwear worn to protect the feet and ankles, including Espadrilles, Flip-flops, Slides, Ballet Flats, Mary Jane's, ankle straps, Clogs, and Stilettos. Each type is made in a range of styles and materials such as leather, plastic, rubber or canvas.

## **Silhouette**

The outline or contour a garment creates whenever it is worn.

## **Spaghetti Strap**

A thin shoulder strap used on camisoles, cocktail dresses, evening gowns, and similar garments.

## **Spandex**

Shiny, man-made fabric used for swimwear, sportswear, and hosiery. Very popular from the 1980's until today.



# Terminology

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## **S** CONTINUED....

### **Stole**

A band of cloth or animal fur (usually Mink or Fox) worn around the shoulders like a shawl, and left to fall down the front of the body.

### **Stripe**

Straight lines or bands of contrasting colours in an alternating pattern.

### **Suit**

A set of clothes cut from the same fabric, which are designed to be worn together.

### **Sustainable**

Movement and process of change in the fashion industry towards greater ecological integrity and social justice. Not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources.



# Terminology

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# T

## **Tailoring**

Completely original garments such as suits are made to the measurements of a specific person or client.

## **Tank Top**

Sleeveless T-shirts worn by men and women.

## **Tapered Leg**

Pant legs that become progressively narrower toward the ankle, allowing for a more relaxed fit through the thigh and knee area.

## **Tartan**

A traditional Scottish woollen cloth woven from brightly coloured wool.

## **Tea Length**

Dresses or gowns that extend to the shins.

## **Thong**

Narrow pieces of cloth that pass between the buttocks, attaching to a band around the hips. Also used to describe sandals attached to the foot by a thong positioned inside the big toe.

## **Tie**

A piece of cloth tied with a knot at the throat, and worn under a shirt collar.

## **Top Hat**

A tall, flat crowned, broad-brimmed hat.

## **Train**

The long, rear part of a skirt or dress that trails behind the wearer.

## **Trench Coat**

A double-breasted, loose-belted, knee-length rain coat made from heavy-duty cotton drill or poplin.



# Terminology

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## **T** CONTINUED....

### **Tulle**

Very fine, mesh-like fabric or netting used in eveningwear and bridal gowns.  
Pronounced as “tool”.

### **Tunic**

A sleeveless, straight, tubular garment that is worn long or short.

### **Tuxedo**

Formal wear for men consisting of a black, ventless dinner or smoking jacket with silk or satin lapels.

### **Twin Set**

A matching cardigan and jumper set worn by women.



# Terminology

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# U

## **U- Shaped Neck Line**

Deeply scooped necklines shaped like letter "U", where it derived its name or shaped like horse shoe.

## **Under Wires**

Rigid, U-shaped rods underneath the base of some bra cups. Under wires provide support and structure, and give the wearer a pushed-up bust appearance that enhances the cleavage.

## **Utilitarian**

Clothing that only serves a functional or practical purpose, such as providing warmth or protection.



# Terminology

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# V

## **V-shaped Neckline**

A neckline shaped or cut like letter "V".

## **Variegated**

A fabric produced with different coloured yarns with a streaked, marked, or patchy appearance.

## **Velour**

Similar to velvet, and used for tracksuits and other sportswear during the 1970's.

## **Velvet**

Closely woven fabric that has a short pile and is soft and rich to the touch.

## **Vent**

An opening in the fabric that allows for greater movement.

## **Vintage**

Garments originating in, or whose design is inspired by, a previous era.

## **Vogue**

The current fashion trend.



# Terminology

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# W

## **Waistcoat**

Sleeveless, upper-body garments cut at waist level with buttons down the front, usually worn over a dress shirt or underneath the jacket of a three-piece suit.

## **Weave**

Patterns of interlinking threads or yarns (called the warp and weft) created during the production of cloth on a loom.

## **Wide Leg**

A type or style associated with jeans where the entire leg portion is extra wide to provide a more comfortable fit around the hips, thighs, knees, and hem, helping to balance out curvaceous hips.

## **Wool**

A natural fibre found in the coats of sheep, goats, alpacas, and some rabbits.



# Terminology

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# Y

## **Yarn**

Any long, continuous piece of entwined fibre that is used for the production of textiles or knits.

## **Yoke**

A fabric cut that is seamed across the top of a shirt, trouser, or skirt.



# Terminology

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# Z

## **Zeitgeist**

Taken from the German “Zeit” meaning time, and “Geist” meaning spirit, it means the spirit of the age.’ Used to describe the dominant fashion.

## **Zipper Pull**

A metal accessory that opens a zipper, produced in various shaped and sizes.



# Terminology

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# ADDITIONS



# Terminology

A top-down view of a white wooden table. In the bottom left, there is a white ceramic cup filled with a light brown beverage. In the bottom right, there are several bright pink flowers with green leaves. Two fashion magazines are scattered on the table. One magazine is open, showing a black and white photograph of a woman's face. The other magazine is partially open, showing a woman in a long, patterned dress. The text is centered over the magazines.

**“Style is a  
way to say  
who you  
are  
without  
having to  
speak.**

- RACHAEL ZOE